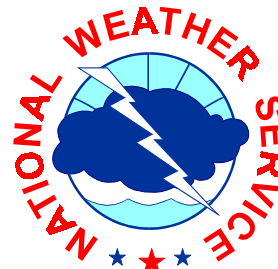


**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
WESTERN REGION  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**



**MAY 14, 2002**

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

**NOAA Administrator Honors Four Western Region Staff:** David Brandon, Hydrologist in Charge, Colorado Basin River Forecast Center, was awarded the 2002 Best Practices Award for the National Weather Service. His employees unanimously nominated him for this award based on his efforts to foster a model working environment which maximizes their potential. David received the award at a ceremony honoring Administrator, Diversity Spectrum, and Best Practice Award recipients in Silver Spring, Maryland, on May 10, 2002.

Also honored for their continued commitment to excellence at the workplace was Lead Forecaster Andrew S. Rorke (WFO Los Angeles-Oxnard) who developed Aviation Verify, the AWIPS-era Aviation Verification Program. Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) Ted Buehner (WFO Seattle-Tacoma) was cited for his contributions to expand the NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) program in western Washington. Ted helped bring two new NWR stations to the remote area this past year. Marilu Trainor, Western Region Public Affairs Officer, was honored as a member of the NWS Public Affairs Team for their contributions to promote the agency's mission and help educate the public about severe weather hazards.

*(L to R) Andrew Rorke, Ted Buehner, Jack Kelly, Dave Brandon, and Marilu Trainor. We're proud of these four employees!*



**NWS Billings Hits the Road for Lightning Safety Awareness Week:** Congratulations to NWS Billings WCM Steve Kuhl and Forecaster Jeff Zeltwanger who hit the road during this year's Lightning Safety Awareness Week, April 28-May 4. The duo logged more than 500 miles while visiting 16 golf courses across the wide expanses of south-central and southeastern Montana. At each stop along the way, they brought weather safety skills and explained how lightning is the second deadliest weather-related killer in the United States, averaging 73 deaths per year. They also emphasized hundreds of people are injured by lightning, many with serious and lasting impacts on their quality of life.

Steve and Jeff delivered the NOAA "Lightning Kills: Play it Safe" poster featuring pro golfer Vijay Singh to the pro shops and gave demonstrations how to access the NWS Billings' Web site to receive the latest forecasts, radar, and satellite data. Kuhl said, "The golf pro's were extremely grateful to have received the posters and were amazed that someone from the National Weather Service paid them a personal visit."



*(L to R Forecaster Jeff Zeltwanger and WCM Steve Kuhl display the "Lightning Kills: Play it Safe" poster they delivered to golf courses across south-central and southeastern Montana.*

**WFO Flagstaff Has a Busy Month of May With Outreach Activities:** Team Flagstaff are also "out and about" explaining the mission of the National Weather Service in northern Arizona this month. WCM George Howard explains during early May, they participated in the "Water is Life" celebration as part of National Drinking Water Week where they focused on northern Arizona's current drought. On May 11, the WCM addressed the Fourth Annual Arizona State Meeting of Search & Rescue Volunteers in Prescott, Arizona. A few days later, May 15, they presented a brief, televised characterization of northern Arizona's current drought as part of the Prescott/Prescott Valley "Drops or Drought?" campaign. This week, staff will address the Arizona Civil Air Patrol during their annual Mountain Flying Clinic on May 18. According to MIC Mike Campbell, his team is also finalizing plans for their office's annual open house on May 30. This year, the upcoming event will focus on showcasing the NWS mission to staff from the other federal agencies and their family members who are employed at the Camp Navajo facility.

## **METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION**

**STATEMENT OF THE WEEK:** An unseasonably cold air mass plunged into the northern half of Western Region the week of May 5. Many record cold minimum temperatures (e.g., 10 degrees at Winnemucca, Nevada, on May 8) and record low maximum temperatures (e.g., many locations in the 40s) were established during the week. Along with the cold air came a prolonged snow event from eastern Washington to eastern Montana. WFO Billings' products are highlighted this week among the many statements that were issued for this cold event. A Special Weather Statement was issued 72 hours prior to the snow event and a Winter Storm Watch was issued 41 hours prior to the event. Winter Storm Warnings/Advisories were issued with 17 hours lead time. This week's Statement of the

Week is a Winter Storm Watch issued by Billings' Lead Forecaster Bill Rasch. Customer feedback after significant weather events often reveals how much they value the increased lead time a weather watch provides them. Bill's Winter Storm Watch provided customers an accurate prognosis almost two full days in advance. Congratulations Bill and WFO Billings for excellent customer service.

WWUS45 KBYZ 052119  
WSWBIL

URGENT - WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BILLINGS MT  
315 PM MDT SUN MAY 5 2002

MTZ028>042-056>058-WYZ098-099-061000-  
CARTER-CUSTER-EASTERN CARBON-FALLON-GOLDEN VALLEY-MUSSELSHELL-  
NORTHEAST BIG HORN MOUNTAINS-NORTHERN BIG HORN-NORTHERN ROSEBUD-  
PARK-POWDER RIVER-SHERIDAN FOOTHILLS-SOUTHERN BIG HORN-SOUTHERN  
ROSEBUD-STILLWATER-SWEET GRASS-TREASURE-WESTERN CARBON-  
WHEATLAND- YELLOWSTONE-INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...BAKER...BIG TIMBER...  
BILLINGS...BROADUS...COLSTRIP...COLUMBUS...EKALAKA...FORSYTH...  
HARDIN...HARLOWTON...HYSHAM...LIVINGSTON...MILES CITY...RED LODGE  
...ROUNDUP AND SHERIDAN  
315 PM MDT SUN MAY 5 2002

...WINTER STORM WATCH FOR EARLY TUESDAY MORNING THROUGH TUESDAY  
NIGHT...

A DEVELOPING STORM OVER THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST WILL MOVE ACROSS THE  
AREA EARLY TUESDAY MORNING. AS THE STORM SYSTEM APPROACHES  
...COLDER AIR WILL BE PULLED DOWN OUT OF CANADA. THIS WILL ALLOW RAIN  
OVER THE AREA TO CHANGE TO SNOW BY EARLY TUESDAY MORNING. THE  
SNOW IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE THROUGH THE DAY AND INTO THE LATE  
EVENING HOURS. TOTAL SNOWFALL AMOUNTS OF UP TO 6 INCHES ARE  
POSSIBLE OVER THE WATCH AREA.

A WINTER STORM WATCH IS ISSUED WHEN THERE IS A POTENTIAL FOR  
SIGNIFICANT SNOW ACCUMULATIONS. STAY TUNED TO NOAA WEATHER  
RADIO...COMMERCIAL TELEVISION OR RADIO STATIONS...OR YOUR CABLE  
TELEVISION PROVIDER FOR THE LATEST STATEMENTS CONCERNING THIS  
DEVELOPING WINTER WEATHER EVENT.

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**StormReady Recognitions Exceed 100:** WFO Pocatello recognized Bannock County, Idaho, and seven associated communities, including the city of Pocatello, as being StormReady on April 24. WFO Missoula recognized Idaho County, Idaho, and four associated communities, as being StormReady on April 29. WFO Pocatello also

recognized Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Labs (INEEL) on May 13 as a StormReady "Community". INEEL consists of an 890-square mile reservation west of Idaho Falls, Idaho, with research facilities and office buildings and employs about 8,000 people. Forty-three StormReady and TsunamiReady recognitions have been awarded in Western Region since October 2001. The total number of recognitions in Western Region (WR) is now 101.

**Aviation Workshop:** On April 20 - May 2, 2002, the Western Region conducted an aviation workshop for our WFO focal points and CWSU MICs. Mark Andrews and Jack May gave presentations regarding national perspectives and AWC activities and goals. The focus of the rest of the gathering was to obtain customer input, and discuss techniques to promote outreach into the aviation community. Customer input was provided by representatives from Skywest and Southwest Airlines, as well as from the FAA Air Traffic Control System Command Center, the Reno Automated Flight Service Stations, and from Mr. Russ Gold of the Air Transport Association. Dr. Wayne Sand from the University of Kansas Department of Continuing Education conducted a one-day seminar on aviation weather hazards.

## **HYDROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION**

**Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Services/Ensemble Streamflow Prediction Workshops:** Workshops for WFO personnel on Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Services (AHPS) and Ensemble Streamflow Prediction (ESP) have been tentatively scheduled. The workshops will be held at the Western Region River Forecast Centers (RFCs) and will be conducted by RFC personnel and WRH Hydrologic Services Division (HSD). The tentative dates for the workshops are June 26 and 27 - Colorado Basin RFC, August 7 and 8 - Northwest RFC, and September 4 and 5 - California-Nevada RFC. A workshop was already held for the offices served by the Missouri Basin RFC in March.

The workshops are intended to provide WFO Hydrologic Program Managers (HPMs) with background on the current status of AHPS, future directions of the program, and the WFO role in AHPS implementation. A discussion of how ESP forecasts are generated and can be utilized will also be provided. Time will also be available for WFO-RFC interaction on other issues.

WR HSD has funding through the AHPS program to cover travel expenses for one person from each WFO to attend one of the RFC meetings. More details will be provided to MICs and HPMs soon.

## **CLIMATE SERVICES**

**Joint Climate Project Between Western Region, Climate Prediction Center, and Climate Services Division:** Dr. Marina Timofeyeva (visiting UCAR scientist) from the Climate Services Division (CSD), visited Western Region Headquarters on May 8-9, 2002. The purpose of her visit was to discuss creating a joint climate-related project between Western Region, the CSD, and the CPC. Specific details of the project have not been worked out yet, but the main concept for the project was discussed. The project would

explore methods for down scaling existing CPC forecasts and forecast methodologies, to the climate station level. More information on this down-scaling project will be forthcoming, as ideas and details are worked out.